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Title : Need to reconsider pending cases of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension to freedom fighters of Goa Liberation Struggle in tune with the decision of Supreme Court.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the serious problem faced by the freedom fighters of our country. It is very sad that even after nearly 60 years of our Independence, we have to discuss this issue again and again in this House. There were a number of struggles which were held in various States. The States concerned have considered these struggles as part of freedom struggle. Struggles like Punnpra, Vayalar, Kayyur, Karivallur, Morazha were considered by the State as part of the freedom struggle. The Goa struggle was also considered as part of freedom struggle. These States have given State pension to the participants. When the States take decision on this, they appoint Monitoring Committee at the district level. There is a Monitoring Committee at the State level also. It is only after this screening process, the States take a final decision. Many freedom fighters have applied for Central pension. Some of them have received it. But many of them have not got it yet. Many of the representations had been rejected on the technical grounds[r64]. When the State has taken the decision, that decision is really applicable to the Central Government also. So, some of the persons have gone to the High Court in Kerala and also in other States. There is a verdict from the High Court of Kerala and also from other States that if the participants of the Struggles have received the pension from the State, that should also be the norms for the Central pension.

There is no reason for denying them. Justice delayed is equal to justice denied. You know, Sir, many of the Freedom Fighters are no more now; many of them are in the sickbeds and some of them are only requesting. We know that no other application is going to come. I would request the Government to take up this issue seriously and give the pension.